

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently amended) A method of providing percutaneous access, said method comprising:

inserting a guidewire into or through the renal collection system,

percutaneously inserting an elongate tubular structure having a first, smaller cross-sectional profile over the guidewire and into the renal collection system;

expanding said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to a second, greater cross-sectional profile;

inflating a balloon to expand said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to said second, greater cross-sectional profile; and

releasing the elongate tubular structure from a constraining tubular jacket, wherein releasing the elongate tubular structure from the constraining tubular jacket comprises tearing said tubular jacket along a perforation.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~26~~ 25, wherein the inflating a balloon step is accomplished using a balloon catheter positioned within the tubular body.

28. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~26~~ 25, wherein the inflating a balloon step comprises radially expanding said balloon.

29. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~26~~ 25, further comprising the step of removing the balloon from the tubular structure following the expanding steps.

30.-46. (Canceled)

47. (Currently amended) A method of providing percutaneous access, said method comprising:

inserting a guidewire into or through the renal collection system,

percutaneously inserting an elongate tubular structure having a first, smaller cross-sectional profile over the guidewire and into the renal collection system, the tubular structure having a beveled distal tip;

expanding said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to a second, greater cross-sectional profile;

inflating a balloon to expand said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to said second, greater cross-sectional profile; and

releasing the elongate tubular structure from a constraint, wherein releasing the elongate tubular structure from a constraint comprises tearing said constraint along a perforation.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~48~~ 47, wherein the inflating a balloon step is accomplished using a balloon catheter positioned within the tubular body.

50. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~48~~ 47, wherein the inflating a balloon step comprises radially expanding said balloon.

51. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~48~~ 47, further comprising the step of removing the balloon from the tubular structure following the expanding steps.

52.-59. (Canceled)

60. (Currently amended) A method of providing percutaneous access, said method comprising:

inserting a guidewire into or through the renal collection system,

percutaneously inserting an elongate tubular structure having a first, smaller cross-sectional profile over the guidewire and into the renal collection system;

expanding said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to a second, greater cross-sectional profile;

inflating a balloon to expand said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to said second, greater cross-sectional profile; and

releasing the elongate tubular structure from a constraining tubular jacket, wherein releasing the elongate tubular structure from the tubular jacket comprises tearing said tubular jacket along a score line.

61. (Canceled)

62. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~61~~ 60, wherein the inflating a balloon step is accomplished using a balloon catheter positioned within the tubular body.

63. (Currently amended) The method of Claim ~~61~~ 60, wherein the inflating a balloon step comprises radially expanding said balloon.

64. **(Currently amended)** The method of Claim ~~61~~60, further comprising the step of removing the balloon from the tubular structure following the expanding steps.

65.-71. **(Canceled)**

72. **(Currently amended)** A method of providing percutaneous access, said method comprising:

inserting a guidewire into or through the renal collection system,

percutaneously inserting an elongate tubular structure having a first, smaller cross-sectional profile over the guidewire and into the renal collection system, the tubular structure having a beveled distal tip;

expanding said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to a second, greater cross-sectional profile;

inflating a balloon to expand said elongate tubular structure from said first, smaller cross-sectional profile to said second, greater cross-sectional profile; and

releasing the elongate tubular structure from a constraint, wherein releasing the elongate tubular structure from the constraint comprises tearing said constraint along a score line.

73. **(Canceled)**

74. **(Currently amended)** The method of Claim ~~73~~72, wherein the inflating a balloon step is accomplished using a balloon catheter positioned within the tubular body.

75. **(Currently amended)** The method of Claim ~~73~~72, wherein the inflating a balloon step comprises radially expanding said balloon.

76. **(Currently amended)** The method of Claim ~~73~~72, further comprising the step of removing the balloon from the tubular structure following the expanding steps.

77.-82. **(Canceled)**